

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for fabricating a light-metal casting, comprising the steps of:

casting a single piece light metal part by simultaneously applying (a) a casting pressure of more than about 50 megapascal from an ejection plunger to a molten metal of a light-metal material poured into a die, and (b) an auxiliary pressure applied by a pressurizing pin, arranged in opposed relation to said ejection plunger, to said molten metal filled in the die during solidification of said molten metal under said casting pressure to form a casting having pinholes generated in a casting surface, wherein the generation of the pinholes is suppressed to meet a predetermined condition;

polishing the casting to reduce a roughness of said casting surface to form a polished surface with a roughness R_{max} not more than a predetermined value;

painting the casting after being polished polishing to form a first resin coating layer on said polished surface; and

plating said casting after being painted painting to form a layer of a metal or a metal compound through a dry-type plating on a surface of said first resin coating layer;

wherein said step of casting includes an auxiliary pressurizing step for applying, by a pressurizing pin, a pressurizing force to said molten metal of said light metal material filled in a die cavity, in addition to an application of said casting pressure, during a solidification process of said molten metal under said casting pressure.

2. (previously presented) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the predetermined condition of the pinholes generated on said polished surface is that the number and a maximum opening dimension of the pinholes generated in a predetermined area of the polished surface is not more than a predetermined value.

3. (previously presented) The method as described in claim 2, wherein the number of said pinholes is in the range of 1 to 15 per 100 cm^2 of said polished surface and said maximum opening dimension is not more than 2 mm.

4. (previously presented) The method as described in claim 3, wherein that the number of said pinholes is in the range of 1 to 10 per 100 cm^2 of said polished surface, said maximum opening dimension is not more than 2 mm and the number of the pinholes having the maximum opening dimension of 1.0 to 2.0 mm is one or zero.

5. (previously presented) The method as described in claim 1, wherein roughness of said polished surface obtained by said polishing step is $6.3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ in R_{\max} .

6. (previously presented) The method as described in claim 1, wherein said first resin coating layer is not less than $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and not more than $40\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ thick.

7. (currently amended) The method, as described in claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising forming a transparent second resin coating layer is formed on said metal or metal compound layer.~~

8. (previously presented) The method as described in claim 7, wherein each of said first and second resin coating layers includes a primer coating layer.

9. (previously presented) The method as described in claim 7, wherein said transparent second resin coating layer is not less than $20\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and not more than $50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ thick.

10. (previously presented) The method as described in claim 1, wherein said polishing step is a barrel finishing process.

11. (previously presented) The method as described in claim 1, wherein said plating step for forming a layer of a metal or a metal compound through said dry-type plating is a sputtering process.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) The method as described in claim 1, wherein said casting of said light-metal material is an aluminum wheel.

14. (currently amended) A shiny aluminum vehicle wheel comprising, a single-piece, unitary aluminum wheel, fabricated by ~~a~~ the method as defined in claim 1, wherein said pinholes in said polished surface of the casting after being polished have a dimension of not more than 2.0 mm diameter and are not more than 15 per 100 cm² area in quantity; wherein said polished surface has a roughness R_{max} of not more than 1.6 µm; and wherein the shiny shiny aluminum vehicle wheel comprises a surface-treated layer, including a resin coating layer with a thickness of not less than 10 µm and not more than 40 µm formed as an undercoat on said polished surface, a dry-tape plating layer made of a metal or a metal compound formed on said resin coating layer and a transparent topcoat layer formed on said dry-tape plating layer so as to provide a design surface.

15. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The shiny single-piece, unitary aluminum vehicle wheel as described in claim 14, wherein said aluminum material is aluminum.

16. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The shiny single-piece, unitary aluminum vehicle wheel as described in claim 14, wherein said aluminum material is an aluminum alloy.